

Independent Living & Assistive Technology

Independent living (IL) services assist individuals with significant disabilities in living and functioning more independently in their own communities. In Rhode Island IL services are offered by a state agency, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI), and two Independent Living (IL) Centers -- the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL) and the PARI Independent Living Center (PARI).

OSCIL and PARI are consumer-controlled, community-based, cross disability, private non-profit organizations. They offer services to individuals or groups of individuals with significant disabilities.

SBVI is a unit within the Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Human Services. SBVI offers services to individuals age 55 and older who have severe visual impairments.

To obtain Assistive Technology (AT) from an IL provider, you will need to apply for services at one of the IL Centers or at SBVI. Once you are eligible, you will be assigned an IL Counselor/Specialist at PARI or OSCIL. At SBVI you will be assigned a Social Worker. If you think an AT service or device will help you be more independent, you may ask the provider for an AT assessment, and that provider may also help you to develop an independent living plan that describes the AT services and devices you need.

The IL provider may help pay for the AT device or service you need. Your income will be used to determine whether you need to pay a share of the costs of the AT. PARI, OSCIL and SBVI use the same income guidelines to determine your share of the cost of AT. Some AT services are available at no cost.

The kinds of AT available through the IL providers vary from simple to complex devices. For example:

SBVI provides adaptive equipment related to vision needs.

PARI offers a reuse program of medical equipment and other AT devices; and

OSCIL provides assistance in obtaining low-tech devices for elders and individuals with sensory impairments.

If you are denied AT services or devices by SBVI, PARI or OSCIL, you may appeal the denial.

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Independent Living Contacts

To apply for Independent Living Services, contact:

OSCIL (Ocean State Center for Independent Living)

1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889

Voice 401.738.1013 ~ TTY 401.738.1015

www.oscil.org

PARI (PARI Center for Independent Living)

Independence Square

500 Prospect Street

Pawtucket, RI 02860

Voice/TTY 401.725.1966

www.pari-ilc.org

SBVI (Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired)

Office of Rehabilitation Services

40 Fountain Street, Providence, RI 02903

401.222.2300

www.ors.state.ri.us

For information about specific assistive technology or other resources, contact:

The ATAP Central Resource Center for Assistive Technology

110 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite I, Warwick, RI 02888-3854

800.916.8324 [TECH] (in-state) ~ 401.463.0202 (out of state)

www.atap.state.ri.us

For information about your rights relating to Independent Living, assistive technology and/or for legal help in appealing a denial of services, contact:

Rhode Island Disability Law Center

349 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Voice 401.831.3150 ~ 800.733.5332 ~ TTY 401.831.5335

DHS/OFFICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES • 40 FOUNTAIN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903 • (401) 421-7005 (V) • (401) 421-7016 (TTY)
IN RHODE ISLAND CALL (800) 916-8324 [TECH] OR (401) 463-0202 (V/TTY)

www.atap.ri.gov

ATAP publications are funded through award H224A30012 from the U.S. Department of Education.

Revised 1/04